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MELCHER, CHRISTIANSEN, ELISON
TO DISCUSS POLITICAL PROCESS
AT GREAT FALLS CONFERENCE

MISSOULA--

Rep. John Melcher, D-Mont., Lt. Gov. Bill Christiansen and Mrs. Gladys Elison, state chairman of the League of Women Voters, will discuss the realities of the political process at national and state levels during a conference entitled "A Mandate to Shape the Future," which will be held Wednesday through Friday (Aug. 29-31) in Great Falls under a \$2,500 grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities (MCH).

All of the discussions are open to the public without charge. Conference sponsor is the Montana Association for Social Concern (MASC).

Bruce R. Sievers, MCH director, who has offices at the University of Montana, Missoula, said the conference will begin at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday at the Heritage Inn, 1700 Fox Farm Road, Great Falls.

Melcher will speak at 10 a.m. Wednesday and Christiansen will speak at 10 a.m. Thursday on national and state government, respectively. Mrs. Elison, who is from Missoula, will discuss lobbying at 10 a.m. Friday.

The conference coincides with the annual meeting of the MASC, an organization composed of those involved in the human resources field.

Sievers said the MCH is financing the conference because of its interest in examining the relationships between human concerns and the workings of the political process.

UM President Robert T. Pantzer is MCH chairman.

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Panelists featured following Melcher's remarks Wednesday will be Don Tacheron, Washington, D. C., research director, Joint Committee on Congressional Operations; Larry Pettit, Helena, commissioner of higher education in Montana; Bill Whitsitt, Washington, D. C., legislative aide to Melcher, and Steve Connolly, Washington, D. C., legislative aide to Rep. Henry J. Heinz, R-Pa.

State political leaders who will be panelists following Christiansen's talk Thursday will be Senate Majority Leader Neil Lynch, D-Butte; Sen. Jim Moore, R-Twodot, minority floor leader; House Speaker Harold Gerke, D-Billings, and Rep. Larry Fasbender, D-Fort Shaw, majority floor leader.

Panelists Friday will be Jack Rehberg, Billings, executive director of the Montana Petroleum Association and the Montana Division of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association; James Murry, Helena, executive secretary, Montana State AFL-CIO; Patricia Keefler, Washington, D. C., a member of the legislative staff of Common Cause, and Francis Mitchell, Missoula, representing Common Cause in Montana.

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